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LETTER DATED 6 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of continued violations of the ceasefire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 29 September and 25 November 1997, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Iranian violations of the ceasefire resolution and the 1991 Tehran agreement between 29 September and 25 November 1997

1. 29 September 1997

At 1415 hours a white Iranian passenger boat was observed travelling at high speed in Shatt al-Arab along a course from (a) between latitude 29°50'00" N and longitude 48°47'60" E to (b) between latitude 49°43'00" N and longitude 48°41'60" E.

2. 5 October 1997

At 0900 hours the Iranian side arrested two Iraqi herdsmen who were tending their flocks inside Iraqi territory. They were taken to the Iranian guard post opposite Ayn Ghazalah at coordinates 734193 (1:100,000 map of Mandali).

3. 5 October 1997

At 1730 hours the Iranian side placed a caravan on a foundation which had been cleared on 24 September 1997 at coordinates 677150 (1:100,000 map of Al-Bakr). Military personnel use it as an observation and surveillance post for the Iranian side opposite the Iraqi custom post at Ra's al-Bishah.

4. 6 October 1997

At 1430 hours 15 soldiers and two officers from the Iranian side reinforced Iranian positions around the Miyan Tarak guard post at coordinates 5840 and increased the number of weapons held at the post.

5. 6 October 1997

The Iranian side intensified foot and vehicle patrols behind the Iranian barriers at night and increased the number of river patrols in Shatt al-Arab by an average of five patrols each day in the restricted zone between the port of Abadan at coordinates 415550 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) and the southern point of Mo'aviyeh Island at coordinates 510435. Each boat carried four persons in civilian dress. The boats and foot and vehicle patrols withdraw after first light each day.

6. 6 October 1997

After sundown on this date the Iranian side occupied the defensive positions located on the Iranian barriers parallel to Shatt al-Arab in the Abadan area at coordinates 415550 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) and the southern point of Mo'aviyeh Island at coordinates 510435 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). Two persons wearing military uniform and carrying GC-type arms occupied each position for 45 minutes before withdrawing to Iranian territory. The defensive positions were occupied by groups, each group occupying three defensive positions 150 metres apart and between 1.5 and 2 kilometres from the next group.

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7. 7 October 1997

At 0800 hours an Iranian engineering unit began to remove arched steel shelters behind the Iranian barriers parallel to the latitude line and opposite the Iraqi Wasiliyah area at coordinates 426543 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). The shelters are old and had been discarded in the area. The Iranian side may wish to remove them in order to transfer them to another location.

8. 8 October 1997

At 0930 hours the Iranian side began to sow mines at coordinates 9185 (1:100,000 map of Bubiyan), 400 metres from our sector and along a 150-metre front.

9. 8 October 1997

At 1050 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was observed at a height of 200 metres in the area opposite Wadi Qarah Tappah at coordinates 760150. At 1105 hours it disappeared in the area behind the Iranian post at coordinates 820130, 3 kilometres away, then made for the Iranian interior. While over the control post, it was seen to winch up an Iranian soldier.

10. 8 October 1997

At 1230 hours an Iranian helicopter was seen reconnoitring behind the hills opposite the Shahabi guard post at coordinates 357436 inside Iranian territory, travelling from south to north. It then returned to the Iranian interior.

11. 8 October 1997

At 1315 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was observed at a height of 2,000 metres in the area opposite Wadi Qarah Tappah at coordinates 760150. At 1340 hours it disappeared in the area opposite Wadi Jalat behind the Iranian post at coordinates 820130, before making for the Iranian interior.

12. 8 October 1997

At 1410 hours an Iranian helicopter landed inside Iranian territory forward of the Abu Gharb area 2 kilometres from the border. Five persons disembarked, and at 1425 hours the helicopter returned to the Iranian interior.

13. 9 October 1997

At 0810 hours two helicopters were seen coming from the Iranian interior. They landed at coordinates 4460 (1:100,000 map of Naft-e Shah), and 17 persons wearing black clothing disembarked.

14. 9 October 1997

At 0940 hours nine vehicles, of which four were military jeeps and two Land Rover military pick-up trucks, were seen approaching from the Iranian interior. They stopped near the helicopters mentioned in paragraph 13 above, and

12 persons from the regular army got out. At 0950 hours the persons wearing black clothing returned in the helicopters to the Iranian interior, followed by the vehicles and military personnel.

15. 9 October 1997

At 1000 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian military helicopter was seen approaching from Iranian Naft-e Shah. It flew over the town of Sumar in the direction of Kani Shaykh.

16. 12 October 1997

At 1800 hours an Iranian fibreglass patrol boat, carrying five persons armed with GC rifles, was seen opposite our sector at coordinates 412543 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).

17. 12 October 1997

At 1900 hours the two Iranian guard posts located at coordinates 419548 and 416550 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) opened sporadic fire on our sector with light arms. This lasted for 15 minutes.

18. 13 October 1997

At 0510 and 2015 hours the two Iranian guard posts referred to in paragraph 17 above repeated their actions, for five minutes on the first occasion and 15 minutes on the second.

19. 13 October 1997

At 0130 hours a group of approximately 10 Iranians armed with medium machine guns, RPG/7 rocket launchers and rifles infiltrated our sector at coordinates 8611, then withdrew to the Iranian interior.

20. 14 October 1997

At 0900 hours a camouflaged combat helicopter was seen to land at the Iranian guard post at coordinates 8906 opposite Wadi Abu Gharb. At 0955 it returned to the Iranian interior.

21. 18 October 1997

At 1320 hours an Iranian helicopter was seen hovering at a height of 80 metres over coordinates 448567 (1:100,000 map of Fakkah), 200 metres from the border. At 1330 hours it returned to the Iranian interior.

22. 24 October 1997

At 1220 hours a camouflaged combat helicopter was seen at 2,000 metres over the Iranian guard post at coordinates 8409, 900 metres from the border. At 1230 hours it returned to the Iranian interior.

23. 28 October 1997

At 0730 hours a group of approximately six Iranians wearing civilian clothing and military uniforms and armed with Kalashnikovs was seen near our sector in Wadi Shusharin at coordinates 9397 before returning to the Iranian interior.

24. 29 October 1997

At 1135 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was seen approaching our sector at a height of 700 metres. It remained in its position at a distance of 900 metres for one minute before returning to the Iranian interior.

25. 30 October 1997

At 0130 hours two persons carrying a rifle and a rocket launcher approached from the Aqabah border post at coordinates 4881. There was an exchange of fire between the two sides until the persons ran away.

26. 30 October 1997

At 0530 hours three shells fell one kilometre from the Aqabah border post, and another four shells fell near the Askiyar border post at coordinates 5081.

27. 30 October 1997

At 1400 hours an Iranian mechanical digger was seen reinforcing the positions at the Chasmeh Kalli junction at the Miyyat post at coordinates 5840 in the Haran region. At 1700 hours it withdrew to the Iranian interior.

28. 30 October 1997

At 1700 hours 10 transport vehicles preceded by a smaller vehicle arrived at the Iranian Khan Layl post carrying 100 persons to reinforce the post.

29. 30 October 1997

At 2100 hours the lights of five vehicles were seen moving along the Iranian border opposite the Tahrir guard post at coordinates 5291.

30. 31 October 1997

At 1115 hours a vehicle carrying 15 persons armed with light weapons was seen. These persons alighted in the area opposite the Askiyan guard post at coordinates 5081, then spread out and began digging an estimated seven trenches.

31. 31 October 1997

At 1400 hours approximately 55 to 60 Iranian soldiers armed with GC light arms, medium weapons of the BKC type and rocket launchers were seen heading from the Iranian position of Fuj towards the Iranian Naft-e Shah guard post at coordinates 5564. They then returned to the Iranian interior.

32. 31 October 1997

At 2200 hours fire came from the Iranian observation post in front of the Ghafiqay post at coordinates 4699 at a rate of three to four bursts of medium firepower, then stopped.

33. 1 November 1997

At 1130 hours an Iranian jeep in Abadan at coordinates 402570 opened fire on Iraqi civilian boats in the area.

34. 3 November 1997

At 0730 hours a 106-mm gun was set up near the Iranian Mian Tak guard post opposite our sector at coordinates 5740 (1:100,000 map of Mandali).

35. 3 November 1997

At 1630 hours two grey fibreglass Iranian patrol boats with Yamaha 200-hp motors, the Ashur/1 and Ashur/2, were observed. The first boat had seven people on board and the second four, of whom two were soldiers. They used a video camera to film the Iraqi coastline from the area of the Unbubi bridge at coordinates 663148 (1:100,000 map of Al-Bakr) to the Iraqi customs posts near the sea.

36. 5 November 1997

At 1630 hours Iranian 82-mm mortars and machine-gun fire fell on our sector at coordinates 5542.

37. 6 November 1997

At 0930 hours a number of persons from the Iranian regular army were seen reinforcing the shelters at the observation post at coordinates 4503.

38. 6 November 1997

At 1200 hours a bulldozer was seen removing one of the old Aranco-type shelters at coordinates 4503. At 1215 hours it returned to the Iranian interior.

39. 8 November 1997

At 1430 hours a military helicopter was seen coming from the Iranian interior heading towards Jabal Aq Wadagh at coordinates 4915, 2 kilometres from the international border. Five minutes later it returned to the Iranian interior.

40. 13 November 1997

The Iranian side carried out surveillance of our border posts of Muhammad Qasim, Ta'an and al-Hassan al-Askari and of the Kilal river from two

helicopters, which then landed at Mehran airport. On the same day a group of persons wearing black clothing was observed surveying the area on foot, before withdrawing to the Iranian interior.

41. 16 November 1997

At 1620 hours two Iranian patrol boats with wireless apparatus, the first of which was grey with three persons on board, and the second blue with four persons on board, approached to within 500 metres of the port of Al-Bakr. They deployed in the area for three minutes before withdrawing towards the Iranian side.

42. 17 November 1997

At 1100 hours four Iranian patrol boats were seen, two of which had 48-hp engines and the other two Yamaha 200-hp motors. Each boat had 10 persons on board, some of whom were civilians and some military personnel armed with rifles. The boats left the port of Abadan at coordinates 400568 and headed towards the city of Khorramshahr at coordinates 290678 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). At 1200 hours all the boats returned to the port of Abadan, having taken the civilians and the soldiers to the port of Khorramshahr.

43. 17 November 1997

Two Iranian Land Cruiser vehicles arrived at the Iranian guard post opposite the Ziyadi guard post. Sixteen armed persons carrying wireless apparatus got out and began to carry out surveillance of the sector. When they reached the guard post, some of them began training activities. At the same time, three explosions were heard in the area. After a short while, a Mercedes truck arrived at the same place, and persons got out who removed the barbed wire that was in front of the post. Everyone then returned to the Iranian interior.

44. 18 November 1997

At 1340 hours an Iranian helicopter was observed at an altitude of 2,000 metres in the area opposite the Qarah Tappah sector at coordinates 1715. At 1400 hours it withdrew from the area towards the Iranian interior.

45. 18 November 1997

At 1600 hours a helicopter was observed at an altitude of 500 metres, 1 kilometre from the border at coordinates 5870. At 1605 hours it withdrew towards the Iranian interior.

46. 19 November 1997

At 0930 hours the Iranian side set up a 100-mm mortar at coordinates 4503 to the south of Khosrow.

47. 19 November 1997

At 0945 hours an estimated 15 persons from the Iranian interior approached our sector at coordinates 8804. Fire was exchanged, and at 1045 the force withdrew to the Iranian interior.

48. 19 November 1997

At various times our units observed the Iranian side clearing away and burning the reeds growing on the Iranian barriers in front of the post at Maynu Island and in the region of Khosrowabad.

49. 20 November 1997

The Iranian side carried out the same work, in the same area, as was reported in paragraph 48 above.

50. 20 November 1997

At 1400 hours four Iranian boats were seen leaving the port of Khorramshahr. They bore the colours white, grey, red and yellow. Three of the boats had Yamaha 200-hp motors and the fourth a 48-hp motor. Two boats had four civilians and the other two had three civilians on board. These boats were observed proceeding the whole length of the Faw region, after which they went out to sea.

51. 20 November 1997

At 1600 hours an Iranian launch left the port of Khorramshahr heading towards Abadan, towing two grey and white Iranian patrol boats. The launch had five civilians on board, and each patrol boat had two civilians on board.

52. 21 November 1997

At 1235 hours an Iranian military helicopter was seen approaching. It hovered over the Khosravi compound at coordinates 4404 then headed for Jabal Agh Dagh.

53. 22 November 1997

The Iranian side opened a new base in the Abadan region at coordinates 415550 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) containing four boats, of which three have Yamaha 200-hp motors and the fourth a Johnson 110-hp motor. These boats undertake patrols from the port of Abadan to the Khosrowabad region, each with four or five civilians on board.

54. 22 November 1997

An Iranian post of two tents was established near the Saddam post at coordinates 472543 inside Iranian territory. It is manned by six or seven persons.

55. 24 November 1997

The Iranian side burned the reeds on the Iranian shore of Shatt al-Arab in the region opposite the Iraqi areas of Fadaghiyah, Duwayb and Wasiliyyah.

56. 24 November 1997

The Iranian side increased the number of Iranians carrying out observation and surveillance on the coast between Baynuj Island at coordinates 304628 and the Khosrowabad area at coordinates 5139, so that there are now 10 rather than six persons at each post. They also re-excavated and placed barbed wire around old positions in the area.

57. 24 November 1997

The Iranian side increased to five the number of its daily river patrols in Shatt al-Arab towards the restricted area between Khorramshahr and Abadan. Some of the boats have Yamaha 200-hp motors and the rest 48-hp motors.

58. 24 November 1997

At 1300 hours, six armed persons, some wearing military uniform and the rest wearing civilian clothing (black trousers), attempted to arrest Iraqi conscript Jawad Yusuf Abd-al-Zuhra while he was fetching water near the Hanjayrah junction at coordinates 862051 inside our national borders. However, the armed men were unable to capture him, as he was able to escape to the watercourses and return to his post at 1900 hours on the same day.

59. 24 November 1997

At 1700 hours the Iranian side erected a steel observation tower 9 metres high on the Iranian barriers at coordinates 5844 south of Majdun South.

60. 25 November 1997

For seven minutes an unarmed khaki-coloured helicopter was seen at an altitude of 1,000 metres carrying out surveillance over the area from coordinates 7614 to coordinates 7920, 5 kilometres from the international boundary.

61. 25 November 1997

At 1345 hours a khaki-coloured helicopter was seen approaching from the Iranian borders at an altitude of 1,000 metres and at a distance of 2.5 kilometres in the Shayb region. It carried out surveillance before returning towards the Iranian borders.